

SENATE BILL 2672

By Ketron

AN ACT to amend Chapter 384 of the Private Acts of 1947; as amended by Chapter 118 of the Private Acts of 1973; Chapter 59 of the Private Acts of 2005; and any other acts amendatory thereto, relative to the General Sessions Court of Rutherford County.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Chapter 384 of the Private Acts of 1947, as amended by Chapter 118 of the Private Acts of 1973, Chapter 59 of the Private Acts of 2005, and any other acts amendatory thereto, is further amended by deleting the following paragraph from Section 12:

Beginning September 1, 2006, the Judges or the General Sessions Court of Rutherford County shall designate, by a majority vote, one (1) of the three (3) judges to serve as the presiding judge for a one (1) year term. There is no limit on the number of consecutive terms a judge may serve as presiding judge. The presiding judge shall designate and determine the cases and the time for holding court for each judge. Until September 1, 2006, the present method of selecting the presiding judge shall remain in effect.

and substituting instead the following:

Effective September 1, 2016, there is created Part IV of the Court of General Sessions of Rutherford County. At the August general election in 2016, the qualified voters of Rutherford County shall elect a person to serve as judge of Part IV of the Court of General Sessions for an initial six-year term beginning September 1, 2016. Following the initial term and every eight (8) years thereafter, the judge of Part IV of the Court of General Sessions shall be elected to serve an eight-year term.

Such person shall be required to possess all of the same qualifications as the general sessions judges in Parts I, II, and III and shall be vested with the same authority and jurisdiction to try, hear, and dispose of cases and other matters that come before such court as is conferred upon the judges in Parts I, II, and III.

The judge of Part IV shall receive the same compensation, payable in the same manner, as the judges of Parts I, II, and III.

Beginning September 1, 2016, the Judges of the General Sessions Court of Rutherford County shall designate, by a majority vote, one (1) of the four (4) judges to serve as the presiding judge for a one-year term. There is no limit on the number of consecutive terms a judge may serve as presiding judge. The presiding judge shall designate and determine the cases and the time for holding court for each judge. Until September 1, 2016, the present method of selecting the presiding judge shall remain in effect.

SECTION 2. Rutherford County shall provide all funding necessary for the establishment and operation of Part IV of the Court of General Sessions of Rutherford County created by this act, as well as a courtroom, office space, and such personnel as are necessary to efficiently operate such court.

SECTION 3. This act shall have no effect unless it is approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the legislative body of Rutherford County. Its approval or nonapproval shall be proclaimed by the presiding officer of the legislative body and certified to the secretary of state.

SECTION 4. For the purpose of approving or rejecting the provisions of this act, it shall be effective upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act shall become effective as provided in Section 3.